THE EXCITER

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VHF and UP

August produced some good and what appeared to be unusual days of Sporadic E. In addition to the regular openings, K5HVC report on 14 August that he heard KH6UK and KH6CTC at 1330 CST. The signals had rapid fade eith echoes but with the correct beam heading from San Antonio. The KH6's were calling Australia at the time so Bert was hearing them off the back and side of their antennas.

The last several years, Hawaii has been heard only during the winter months when the MUF reaches 50 mc. At the present time, the MUF for long paths is not much over 30 mc. during the daytime. Therefore, there is the remote possibility that the path was supported in part or all by Sporadic E. The path from Hawaii to Australia is not as unusual as it is now winter in the southern hemisphere.

The night of 14 August was one of the best ever as reported by W5DKE. From 2000-2100 CST, Ed worked Tenn., Fla., La., Neb., Colo., and Ore. and Wash. by 2 hop Es. He also heard Mo., and Calif. That's quite a geographical spread to be heard at the same time.

On 16 August at 2030 CST, K5HVC worked KL7AUV at Anchorage with good signals. This was about two hrs. later than Alaska usually comes in during the winter. If this were to have been an Es contact, it would probably be one of the longest ever recorded as the distance is 3100 mi. Washington and Oregon coming in at the same time by 2 hop Es help point up the Es mode. At any rate, this is unusually rare.

W5VY reports some 2 meter meteor meandering. Actually, beam heading was 10 deg. north of the great circle to Phoenix, but Pat worked W7RUX during a Perseid meteor shower which peaks on 12 August.

Meteor work calls for real attention to detail and Pat can place his frequency to within several hundred cycles. The sked was set for 0600 CST and contact established at once. The QSO was completed in 8 min. though they often take up to hours to complete. Most of the meteor bursts were long enough to hear calls about 3 times at 30-35 wpm. (!).

W7RUX runs 1 kw. and 13 element Yagi and W5VY runs 1 kw. in and 680 w. out to a 32 element bedspring array. (Well, back to my Heathkit).

Explorer VI, the Paddlewheel satellite, comes through fine on 108.06 and 108.09 mc. The longest it has been heard is 18 minutes using a dipole and Tapetone converter. Close pases over San Antonio take place about once a week when it is only about 170 miles high. At this time, the Doppler shift is greatest (up to 7 kc.) as its velocity is 22,000 mph. At its furtherest point, it does just 3100 mph. and is 44 db. weaker than when in close. Explorer VI should transmit continuously for about one year.

On 16 August signals were strong enough to be received on an FM receiver and a 5 element FM-band Yagi as reported by Leon Matheny, ex-CX1BB, ex-DL4ABF.

And remember, as of 21 August 59, Technicians can operate on 145-147 mc. See September QST. Good luck and regards.

Cal Graf, W5LFM
207 Addax Drive
DI-4-5032

TAXES ON ELECTRONIC PARTS OPPOSED

"We the San Antonio Radio Club believe that this law is unconstitutional, discriminatory, and unjust, and shall take steps to see it repealed or modified." The above motion was unanimously voted into effect at the meeting on August 21, 1959. This law stipulates that the following people become retailers: (1) any person who repairs radio as a hobby and does not charge; (2) any person placing a part in his own set, this includes an amateur placing a tube in his own T. V. set); (3) any person who constructs his own radio, hi-fi, etc.; (4) any student of electronics, (unless parts are bought by state operated school with school funds and does not become property of the student.)

Although radio amateurs or anyone licensed by the FCC are exempt, the exemption is only on parts purchased for use in equipment used exclusively under this license. In other words, any amateur placing a part in any piece of electronic equipment not exclusively used in connection with amateur radio becomes a retailer.

To comply under this law as a retailer you must. (1) have a store license for $5.00; (2) have a retail permit at $5.00; (3) post a $500.00 bond; (4) file a noterized monthly tax return prior to 10th of each month whether you have made any sales or not. This tax return shall include all purchases that are exempt.

It is evident that this law was not primarily designed to increase the revenue for the State of Texas, but rather to drive part time or small service shops out of the radio service field. Mr. Albert Brown, chief clerk of the comptroller office, Austin, Texas, stated at a meeting at the Hilton Hotel on August 19, 1959, that the $5.00 retail permit costs the state $15.00 to process. It is further evident that it would be cheaper for the State of Texas to process tax returns from the less than 100 parts wholesalers than the several thousand TV radio shops, and individuals in the State of Texas. This law is even unjust on our wholesaler from the standpoint that these parts may be purchased outside of the State of Texas without applying for a retail permit.

It is unfortunate that several members of a local radio and T. V. association contributed and deliberately lobbied for this law. It now becomes our duty to rectify their narrow-minded, dictatorial actions for the benefit of the electronic industries and amateur radio in the State of Texas. We realize the State of Texas is in dire need of funds and we do not contemplate removing the 3% tax but rather to modify this law so it is just for all concerned.

This law seems pointed at the student of electronics, the teacher of electronics, the part time service man so often referred to as (the shade tree mechanic) or back yard service man, and this service man is so often found to possess more and better technical

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capabilities than so many of the service men found in the present day service shops. If this bill is to remain in effect, it will not help the situation in regards to the calabre of the technical personnel that will be available to these licensed repair shops, but will drastically hinder the training and upgrading of electronic personnel, students, hobbist, and Amateur Radio Operators. Conditions have come to a very sorry pass, when a man cannot repair and maintain his own personal possessions. This we feel is in direct conflict with the very constitution of these United States which some of us have used our very lives as a pawn for.

Please send your comments and suggestions to "The Editor," P. O. Box 62, San Antonio 1, Texas; as we think there is a hornet's nest stirred up, and we want to see just whose lap it is going to land in.

S A R C LADIES CLUB

The first meeting in September will be at the Gunter Hotel. The program will be on Interior Decorating and will be presented by Leona Crump and Ella Munsch.

The second meeting in September will be held at the home of Mary Carmack K5PDI.

Mrs. Behrend, mother of Ruth Jank K50PT, and Mrs. Gibbons, XYL of W5PON, were guests at the August meeting. We hope they continue to attend.

Congratulations to Ailiene, XYL of Bob Turnage W5RSD, and Gerry, XYL of Buck W5FGA, for passing their General Class License examintion.

Ethel K50PS just back from Denver, Colorado.

Leona, XYL of W5DKF, was honored with a surprise stork shower given by Neline, XYL of W5OZQ, and Kathy, XYL of W5LUU.

Here's hoping to see all of you XYL's at the next meeting.

MOBILE

The August transmitter hunt was well hidden by Ralph W5THU. All of those that were hunting, found it, but it took a-while to find the dead end road he was hidden on.

John K5ABL came in first, W5OZQ Theo came in second,, and George W5LFG came in third. John will hide the transmitter for the September hunt. Let's see some new faces for the next hunt, because I think there is going to be a plaque given to the transmitter hunter who has chalked up the most points for the year.

Al W5PAX is on mobile and is looking for some early afternoon contacts.

Denny K9GIR in back mobile after a long siege of loading coil problems.

From the looks of things, a lot of the hams are going to take their URC-4 portables to the Kerrville Convention.

See u on mobile.

73's Gene

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The fellow who is always waiting for something to turn up, might start on his own shirt sleeves.

* * *

The fellow who is always slapping you on the back does so to help you swallow all he tells you.

Far away, there in the sunshine, are my highest aspirations. may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they lead.—Louisa May Alcott.

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